

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

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17 APRIL 75:

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS ON CHINA POLICY

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS RELATED TO CHINA FROM TRAN-
SCRIPT OF PRESIDENT'S QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS APRIL 16.

2. Q. MR. PRESIDENT, WHEN A DELEGATION OF THE AMERICAN
SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS WAS IN CHINA, THE LAST TIME
AROUND THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS PLACED BY THE
CHINESE LEADERS, LEADING ALL THE WAY FROM PREMIER CHOU ON
DOWN, THAT NO FIRM RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES WAS
POSSIBLE UNTIL TAIWAN, SO TO SPEAK, WAS TAKEN OUT OF THE
PICTURE AND PLACED UNDER CHINESE RULE. YOU ARE GOING BACK
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TO CHINA. IS THAT ON YOUR AGENDA?

THE PRESIDENT: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, WHICH WAS REOPENED SEVERAL YEARS AGO, IS PREDICATED ON THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE. THIS RELATIONSHIP IS CONTINUING, I WOULD SAY ON SCHEDULE.

I AM GOING BACK TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA LATE THIS FALL. I WAS THERE FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS IN JUNE AND JULY OF 1972. I WOULD SAY THAT NO FIRM AGENDA FOR THAT FORTH-

COMING MEETING HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. SO, I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO COMMENT DIRECTLY ON THE QUESTION THAT YOU ASK.

Q. MR. PRESIDENT, IN RESPONSE TO MR. KIRKPATRICK'S QUESTION, YOU MENTIONED A POLICY OF DETENTE IN AN AFFIRMATIVE WAY. THE CHINESE AND RUSSIAN MILITARY AID TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAS BEEN PLACED AS APPROXIMATELY \$1.5 BILLION.

MY QUESTION IS, DOESN'T OR DOES THAT VIOLATE THE SPIRIT OF DETENTE, AND IF SO, OF WHAT PURPOSE IS DETENTE?

THE PRESIDENT: I THINK IT IS WORTHWHILE TO POINT OUT THAT NONE OF THE SIGNATORIES TO THE PARIS ACCORDS HAVE SOUGHT TO ENFORCE THE VIOLATIONS OF THOSE ACCORDS, INCLUDING, OF COURSE, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION

IN THE AGREEMENT THAT WAS SIGNED IN PARIS IN JANUARY OF 1973, THE UNITED STATES, AS PART OF ITS AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH VIETNAM, AGREED TO SUPPLY REPLACEMENT WAR MATERIEL TO GIVE ECONOMIC AID.

THE SOVIET UNION AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, I ASSUME, MADE THE SAME COMMITMENTS TO NORTH VIETNAM.

IT APPEARS THAT THEY HAVE MAINTAINED THAT COMMITMENT. UNFORTUNATELY, THE UNITED STATES DID NOT CARRY OUT ITS COMMITMENT IN THE SUPPLYING OF MILITARY HARDWARE AND ECONOMIC AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM.

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I WISH WE HAD. I THINK IF WE HAD, THIS PRESENT TRAGIC SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM WOULD NOT HAVE OCCURRED.

I DON'T THINK WE CAN BLAME THE SOVIET UNION, AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, IN THIS CASE. IF WE HAD DONE WITH OUR ALLIES WHAT WE PROMISED, I THINK THIS WHOLE TRAGEDY COULD HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED.

NEVERTHELESS, WE HOPE TO AND ARE WORKING THROUGH THE COUNTRIES THAT ARE A PART OR WERE A PART OF THE PARIS ACCORDS TO TRY AND ACHIEVE A CEASE-FIRE, AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

Q. SIR, ON THAT QUESTION OF YOUR TRIP TO RED CHINA THAT MR. ISAACS RAISED, IT SEEMS THAT DOWN THE ROAD IT HAS BEEN SPECULATED THAT THE POLICY OR THE PURPOSE OF DETENTE IS TO ESTABLISH NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH A COUNTRY THAT YOU DESCRIBED LAST THURSDAY AS HAVING ONE-QUARTER OF THE POPULATION OF THE WORLD. THAT WOULD ASSUME THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EMBASSY IN PEKING WHICH WOULD AUTOMATICALLY ASSUME THE DE-RECOGNITION OF SOME KIND OF TAIWAN. IF THAT IS IN THE CARDS, WHAT KIND OF GUARANTEES WOULD YOU SEEK, WHAT KIND OF QUID PRO QUO WOULD YOU SEEK FROM PEKING TO INSURE THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF TAIWAN?

THE PRESIDENT: I HONESTLY DON'T BELIEVE THAT I SHOULD DISCUSS, UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, ANY OF THE AGENDA OR ANY OF THE DETAILS OF THE CONTINUATION OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

WE HAVE EXCELLENT RELATIONS, AS I AM SURE YOU KNOW, WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA. WE VALUE THAT RELATIONSHIP. WE ARE CONCERNED, OF COURSE, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S SECURITY AND STABILITY. AND IT DOESN'T SEEM TO ME AT THIS TIME IN THIS FORUM THAT I SHOULD DISCUSS ANY NEGOTIATIONS THAT MIGHT TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

Q. IT IS OUR POLICY FOR THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE AND UNCLASSIFIED

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GUARANTEE OF THE DEFENSE OF TAIWAN. IS THAT OUR CONTINUING POLICY?

THE PRESIDENT: I SAID, AND IF I MIGHT I WOULD MORE OR LESS REPEAT IT, WE DO VALUE THAT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA. I THINK THAT IS BEST INDICATED BY THE HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION THAT I SENT FOR THE FUNERAL SERVICES OF CHIANG KAI-SHEK. I BELIEVE THAT HAVING SENT VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER THERE, WITH THE OTHERS THAT WERE INCLUDED, IS A CLEAR INDICATION THAT WE CONSIDER OUR RELATIONSHIP, OUR COOPERATION AND WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA A MATTER OF VERY, VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE TO US. KISSINGERR UNQUOTE

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